230

A LETTER SENT

To the Honoble *William Lenthal* Esq;
Speaker of the Honorable House of Commons.

Concerning

Sir *Tho: Fairfax*'s gallant Proceedings

IN

Cornwal,

Since his advance from *Torrington* and *Launceston* to *Bodman*,

Where they have taken divers Prisoners,

AND

PRINCE *CHARLS*

driven into *Pendennis*-Castle.

Appointed by the Honorable William Lenthal *Esq*; *to be forthwith printed and published.*

London, Printed for *Edw. Husband*, Printer to the Honorable House of Commons, and are to be sold at his Shop at the signe of the Golden Dragon in Fleetstreet, neer the Inner-Temple. *March* 7. 1645.

TO
The Honourable *W. Lenthal* Esq;
Speaker to the Honourable House of Commons.

SIR,

IN my last I acquainted you with the Armies coming to *Launceston*, and of the taking 300 horse neer *Stratton*. By reason of the long marches the Foot had taken, and many straglers behinde, the General and the Army rested at *Launceston* two dayes; and on Saturday last, the Army advanced five or six miles towards *Bodman*. And this day the Horse and Foot had a General Rendezvouz upon the *Downs* within eight Miles of *Bodman*; the Forlorn Hope being sent out, they met with the Enemies Scouts, there being eight of them together, which our men took (not one escaping) they all confesse they had no intelligence of our coming; that they belonged to a Guard of 300 Horse that was kept on a Passe within three miles of *Bodman*; and within two miles where they were taken, the Army advancing neer to that place, we discovered a Body of the Enemies Horse, at about two miles distance, who made a stand, and faced us for a while; but

before ever we came neer them, retreated to *Bodman*: As we were upon the Moors, intelligence came, That the two Companies of Dragoons that were sent towards *Camelford* the other day, and had possest an House, the better to gain intelligence, if the Enemy intended to break through Eastward, were run some hazard by a great Body of the Enemies Horse that were got between them, and the Rendezvouz, and forced them into a Close for their security; whereupon a thousand Horse were sent to relieve them, but before they came, the Dragoons themselves had beaten off the Enemy, and made good their retreat to a Church, without the losse of a man. Sir *James Smith* with his Brigade, was the man that had a Designe to have surprized them; but now we are in a manner gotten between him and *Bodman*; for the Army quarters in the field, and all the Villages here-bouts, that he can hardly make his retreat, unlesse he took the opportunity before our Horse came up. At our coming into *Cornwal*, especially at *Launceston*, we found the people possest with an opinion, *That there would be no mercy shewn unto the Cornish*; but after a dayes being at *Launceston*, the Town seeing the carriage of the Souldier so fair, and not one House plundered (not so much as the Governours own house) and the Country being possest with the like opinion of the civil carriage of this Army, came into the Market, and brought in provisions for supply of our Forces; but in regard *Gorings* Forces had plundred the Countrey of all their Horse, people were glad to bring it in on their backs. And Friday being the day for the *Posse* of the whole Countrey to appear at *Bodman*; all the North part of *Cornwal* refused to appear, they positively affirming, *They found us Friends, and not Enemies*; and those that were on the Westside of *Bodman*, likewise refused to come in, saying, *They had not greater Enemies then Gorings Horse that were among them.* A Gentleman whom I spake withall this day, who was at their meeting said, The Horse onely appeared, the *Posse* Foot wholly refused to come in; and indeed, there cannot be a greater advantage to us, then to drive *Gorings* Horse before us; for there carriages are so

 barbarous

barbarous, that they make every mans hand against them where they come: The Army had been this night at *Bodman*, but in regard the Enemy is numerous in Horse, and that we marched much upon the Downs, and was like to be late before we could get in, it was held fit to quarter in the Fields and Villages here abouts, and the next day to march in a close Body, Horse and Foot; though it be the slower way, yet it is the more secure: The Prisoners that were taken this day, told me, they were glad with all their hearts they were taken upon so fair quarter, for they knew they should be all taken at last (they said) and that they give themselves already for lost: And indeed, God hath stroken their hearts with a terrour. Some Gentlemen of quality have sent privately for protections, whose not appearing against us, though not for us, keeps all that part of the Countrey in, where they are; And just now we have intelligence, that the Lord *Mahun* is unwilling to obey the L. *Hoptons* Commands, and rather stands upon his Guard against his Forces, then to assist him with any: as far as I can conceive in my poor judgement, we shall drive the Enemy to a corner; and it may please God to bring their Horse to accept of conditions, as well as formerly they did bring our Foot; for unlesse this very night they do break through, which they can hardly do, considering how our Forces are laid, we have them then before us to the Lands end.

Your most humble Servant,

St. Blessenden, March 1. 1645.

J. R.

THe Messenger staying till the next morning, I thought fit to give you this further account of the Enemies motion and our proceedings: This morning by break of the day, the Army was drawn to a Rendezvouz upon the Heath within two miles of *Bodman*, a party being sent out to discover if the Enemy were in the Town, brought Intelligence they quit the Town last night about ten of the clock, Horse and Foot, the Lord *Hopton* bringing up the Rear himself: The most of the Foot they had were Welchmen, having Leeks in their Hats, and drunk, and went out disorderly: They march'd toward *Truro* with a good part of their horse; the rest of their Horse we this morning received Intelligence marched towards *Ware-Bridge*, as if they intended to go Eastward; whereupon Lieut. General *Cromwel* who went the night before to Relieve our Dragoons, was sent unto by the General to desire him to secure the passage at *Ware-Bridge*, by placing some Dragoons there; who being there with One thousand Horse, and Four hundred Dragoons, will give a seasonable interruption to the Enemies advance that way. We finde the Towns-people in *Bodman* no wayes fearful of our coming, rather desiring it: They say they have had no Market these two Market dayes, by reason that *Gorings* Horse rob'd the Market people, and take away their Horses. There were two Regiments of Foot and two of Horse sent this morning from their Rendezvouz about nine of the clock, to assist those forces at *Ware-Bridge*, whereby we might the better drive the Enemy before us into a narrow compasse of Land. At this place where we are, we may see the Sea on both hands; if the Enemy had had any gallantry left in them, they would have shew'd it upon our approach to *Bodman*, their onely strength consisting in Horse, where they had room enough upon the Downs to play their Game, but they never appeared but once, and that at two miles distance, and retreated. I have spoken with some of the Inhabitants of this Town, who were at the grand *Posse* at *Bodman* on Friday last, and they affirm, That of the whole County of Cornwal, there

did

did not appear Eighty men: but *Gorings* Horſe, and the Horſe of the County, all appeared in a great body. Thoſe Foot that were in *Bodman*, were ſome of the Runawayes from *Torrington*, and ſome Welchmen that were left at *Launceſton*, and fled hither, and ſome others of the Countrey, in all to the number of Four hundred at the moſt, which is the onely body of Infantry they have left that we can yet hear of: the ſame Intelligencer confirmed, That the Lord *Mahone* is either reſtrained or wounded by the Lord *Hopton*; yet the certainty thereof, more then the publique report of the Countrey, we cannot yet hear. I doubt it falls out ill we have not a Squadron of Ships towards *Falmouth*, where no doubt they may have rich booty, and intercept perſons of great quality. Several Letters have been ſent unto *Plymouth*, to the Commander in chief upon theſe Coaſts; we hope that they will yet come ſeaſonable. The Prince is at *Pendennis*, and I believe within two dayes will be in *France* if the wind hold. The head Quarter was this night at *Bodman*; three Regiments marched to *Liſtithiel* to ſecure the paſſage that way: the Forlorn hope of Horſe that went thither, made the Enemy quit their Guard at *Liſtithiel*; and receiving Information that four Wain-load of Ammunition was in the way to go from *Liſtithiel* to *Foy*, ſix of the Troopers rode after it, and made the Convoy deſert their charge, and brought back the four load of Ammunition this night to *Bodman*, there being ten Oxen to every draught: Likewiſe a party being ſent out another way, overtook forty two Musketiers, who had their Matches lighted, and Muskets loaden, four Troopers rode up unto them, and made them all lay down their Arms, and brought them back Priſonets to the head Quarter. Another party was ſent towards *Truro*, to diſcover whether the Enemies Horſe remained in a body, and at Caſtle-Dennis diſcovered a body of about a thouſand Horſe an hour before night, which we conceive onely ſtaid till the darkneſſe of the night to draw off, after the reſt further Weſt; they are ſo Alarm'd by our parties, that they are forced to keep in bodies, and can hardly go to Quarter, which will quickly make them

them weary and over-watcht, and altogether unfit to break through, if they had any such intention, which I believe now they have not: That we keep strong Guards at *Liskeil*, *Wur-Bridge*, and the Fords upon both Rivers. Sir *John Green-ville* Lieutenant Colonel, and divers others are taken Prisoners.

Bodman, March 2. ren at night.

THe Messenger staying till Tuesday morning, *March* 3. I can onely adde, That our Intelligence is, the Enemy bends West, onely a party of Horse to face us. This day some Quarters removed towards *St. Tullans*, the way to *Truro*. The Messenger takes pains for so long a journey.

FINIS.

31093